

Determination of Actions Required Under Component 1 of the 2008 OCAP Biological Opinion
March 22, 2010

The Service has determined that OMR flows be no more negative than -5,000 cfs on a 14-day average (no more negative than -6,250 cfs on a 5-day average), as allowed under the RPA.

The Service's determination is based the Smelt Working Group (SWG) recommendation made on Mar. 22, 2010. The SWG recommended OMR flows of no more negative than -5,000 cfs. The group noted that no salvage has occurred since March 14 and the latest SKT survey (#3) suggests that the greatest densities of delta smelt are in the Sacramento River and outside the influence of the pumps. The risk of entrainment for adult delta smelt is considered to be low at this time.

Delta temperatures have exceeded 12⁰C since February 14 and egg size in salvage- and survey-collected females is approximately 1 mm in diameter. Spent females were collected in SKT #3. Therefore, the juvenile protective phase of the biological opinion (RPA Component 2; Action 3 in Attachment B) is in effect. This action will continue until June 30 or when the 3-day mean water temperature at Clifton Court Forebay reaches 25⁰C, whichever occurs earlier. Given incubation rates at 12⁰C, the Working Group does not expect that larvae will enter the water column for one to two weeks.

Larval sampling is ongoing at the CVP and SWP facilities. No longfin or delta smelt larvae have thus far been salvaged this season.

If salvage occurs before March 29, 2010 or if larval smelt are detected, the Working Group may be asked to reconvene for further discussion.